

Message Text

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12

ACTION SS-30

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R 260310Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO USLO PEKING

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 85

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

S E C R E T BANGKOK 1425

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TH, CH

SUBJECT: RTG DEFENSE MINISTER DAWEE VISIT TO PEKING

1. THE RTG MINISTER OF DEFENSE, AIR CHIEF MARSHAL DAWEE CHULLASAPYA, PLANS TO TRAVEL TP PEKING FEBRUARY 7 IN HIS CAPACITY AS HEAD OF THE THAI OLYMPIC ASSOCIATION. HE WILL BE THE HIGHEST RANKING RTG OFFICIAL TO HAVE MADE A TRIP TO CHINA SINCE THE THAW, AND WILL MOST LIKELY CARRY SOME AUTHORITY TO MAKE A SERIOUS EFFORT TO BREAK THE LOG JAM IN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. DAWEE (PRONOUNCED TAH-WEE) HAS BEEN A CLOSE FRIEND OF THE UNITED STATES SINCE WORLD WAR II, AND HAS RECENTLY BEEN QUITE HELPFUL TO US IN PRIVATE RTG COUNCILS AND IN PUBLIC PRONOUNCEMENTS OVER SUCH ISSUES AS THE U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE AND THE CIA LETTER FLAP.

2. SUBJECT TO USLO'S APPROVAL, WE WOULD LIKE TO OFFER SOME TYPE OF MUTUALLY DESIRABLE AND APPROPRIATE ASSISTANCE TO DAWEE DURING HIS CHINA VISIT. TWO SPECIFIC AREAS WOULD SEEM TO HAVE POTENTIAL WORTH EXPLORING AND WE SOLICIT YOUR COMMENTS ON BOTH.

(A) FIRST, IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT PREVIOUS THAI DELEGATIONS HAVE NOT HAD THE BENEFIT OF PRIVATE COMMUNICATIONS WITH BANGKOK DURING THEIR STAY IN PEKING. WHILE WE RECOGNIZE
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THAT FOR REASONS OF A SENSITIVE NATURE, USLO MAY BE UNABLE TO OFFER SUCH FACILITIES TO DAWEE, WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR CONSIDERATION OF AND REACTION TO THIS IDEA.

(B) THE SECOND POSSIBILITY WOULD BE TO OFFER DAWEE A BRIEFING IN HONG KONG PRIOR TO HIS ENTERING CHINA. WE BELIEVE THIS BRIEFING WOULD BE GREATLY ENHANCED IF THE BRIEFER WERE HIMSELF AN OFFICER OF APPROPRIATE EXPERIENCE IN AND DIRECT FIRST HAND IMPRESSIONS OF THE PEKING SCENE, PERHAPS SOMEONE FROM USLO WHO MIGHT BE IN HONG KONG ON LEAVE OR BUSINESS.

3. ONCE AGAIN WE RECOGNIZE THE DIFFICULTIES, BUT WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE YOUR CONSIDERATION OF THESE SUGGESTIONS IN LIGHT OF THE CURRENT TURBULENT STATE OF OUR AFFAIRS WITH THAILAND. MORE IMPORTANTLY WE BELIEVE IT IS IN OUR INTERESTS TO BE HELPFUL TO OUR THAI ALLIES AS THEY MOVE TOWARD SOME FORM OF RELATIONS WITH PEKING.
KINTNER

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